

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

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OMB-01 ERDA-05 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4031

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

IAEA VIENNA 386

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2343

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IN, CA

SUBJECT: ISSUES FOR INDO-CANADIAN NUCLEAR TALKS, MARCH 4

REF: NEW DELHI 1121

1. THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION EXPECTS THEIR NEGOTIATING TEAM TO ARRIVE IN NEW DELHI ON MARCH 3 AND HAVE PROPOSED TO THE INDIANS THAT THE TALKS OPEN ON THE 4TH. THE INDIANS HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED THAT DATE, BUT HAVE NOT REFUSED IT EITHER. INDIAN RELUCTANCE TO FOCUS ON A DATE HAS ALREADY LED TO SEVERAL POSTPONEMENTS IN THE TALKS. THE CHANGES IN THE TOP MEA ECHELONS COULD LEAD TO FURTHER SLIPPAGE.

2. A CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER REVIEWED THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED IF THIS ROUND OF TALKS IS TO SUCCEED. IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE THE ISSUES ARE:

A. SUPPLY: THE CANADIANS WILL NOT AGREE TO RESUME COOPERATION UNLESS THERE IS AGREEMENT THAT THE SAFEGUARDS IN THE RAPP CONTINUE EVEN IF THE CANADIANS UNILATERALLY SUSPEND SUPPLY. THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE INDIANS THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS IN THE EVENT OF A SECOND INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.

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B. DURATION AND PURSUIT: THE CANADIANS WANT AGREEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE SAFEGUARDS IN PERPETUITY FOR ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS PRODUCED AT RAPP THROUGH EACH GENERATION AND SUBSEQUENT LOCATION IN WHICH MATERIALS MAY BE USED. THE INDIANS HAVE OFFERED 25 YEARS FOR DURATION AND 10 YEARS FOR PURSUIT.

C. REPROCESSING: THE CANADIANS SEEK A VETO OVER THE REPROCESSING OF ALL RAPP NUCLEAR MATERIALS. THEY ARGUE THEY MUST BE ABLE TO HAVE A NEGATIVE SAY TO PREVENT ANY MATERIALS FROM BEING USED IN AN EXPLOSIVE PROGRAM. THE INDIANS CONTEND THAT THE END-USE UNDERSTANDING ALREADY MEETS THIS CANADIAN REQUIREMENT.

D. TRANSFER: THE CANADIANS WANT AGREEMENT THAT SAFEGUARDS WILL ALSO FOLLOW ANY EQUIPMENT THAT THE INDIANS MAY DECIDE TO REPLACE AT RAPP. THIS IS AN OUTCOME OF THE CONTAMINATION APPROACH, TO WIT, ONCE EQUIPMENT IS SAFEGUARDED, IT REMAINS SAFEGUARDED, EVEN IF USED IN ANOTHER INSTALLATION.

E. EXPORTS: THE CANADIANS INSIST THAT THE INDIANS AGREE NOT TO EXPORT ANY MATERIALS EXCEPT UNDER THE SAME SAFEGUARDS THE CANADIANS WOULD THEMSELVES DEMAND ON EXPORTS OF LIKE MATERIALS FROM CANADA.

3. MUCH OF THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS FROM THIS EMBASSY. IT IS REPEATED IN THE INTEREST OF TIMELINESS AND CLARITY. THE HIGH COMMISSION HERE HAS NO CLEAR IDEA OF HOW MUCH IF ANY FLEXIBILITY THERE MAY BE IN THE CANADIAN POSITION EXCEPT FOR THE ISSUE OF SUPPLY WHICH WE ARE TOLD IS ESSENTIAL TO ANY RESUMED COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SAXBE

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